

PET DOG SHOWS AT HOTELS

EARNST COMPETITIONS IN GAY SURROUNDINGS.

Pomeranians and the Toy Spaniels Have Received Their Friends—Pekinese Spaniels and French Bulldogs Still to Hold At Home—Dogs and Daws.

This is the season for the shows at hotels of pet and toy dogs, the dainty trifles of fluffy coat and uptilted nose that women and girls carry in their arms or sometimes walk on a leash down Fifth avenue. The shows are fashionable affairs and social gatherings, but the gay surroundings do not make them more frivolous meetings.

Instead, although the value of the prizes is small the competitions are fought out with vigor in each class and dogs are brought from distant cities to be exhibited. The exhibitors are mostly amateurs who pay long prices for their dogs, and, in sympathy with the old saw, "Love me, love my dog," they are happy or sad over the winnings or defeats of their favorites.

Pomeranians received their friends recently at the Waldorf-Astoria, and on Wednesday the Pekinese will be at home in the ballroom of the Plaza Hotel. It is a far cry from Pomerania and the River Oder to China and the Yangtze-kiang, but the world is searched by fashionable women for novelties in pet dogs, just as it is ransacked by men for the finest horses. But whether English toy spaniels, tailless schipperkes from Belgium, the griffon Brussels, or from China and Japan, the women think all pet dogs worth having. All the pets are not importations, and the interest of the shows is enhanced by the rivalry between the homebred types.

Last month the Toy Spaniel Club held



POMERANIAN—CHAMPION BANNER PRINCE CHARMING.

its seventh annual show at the Waldorf Astoria. This is open to all breeds of toy dogs and is the largest, in consequence, of them all. The French Bulldog Club, in the early spring, will repeat the show it inaugurated last year at the Hotel Astor. This, as with the shows of Pomeranians and Pekinese, is far but the one variety. For the show of the American Pomeranian Club an English expert, Mrs. L. C. Dyer, made a special trip across the Atlantic to act as judge.

The Pomeranians and Pekinese are dainty, yet possess hardiness and are not dwarfed or pinched in looks. They are among the most expensive of dogs and the cheapest are worth \$300, from which figures the only limit is the ceiling, as they used to say in the mining camp faro banks. Sales at \$1,000 are an ordinary occurrence, yet not so ordinary, for including a few litters of puppies only 128 exhibits could be mustered for the Pomeranian show, and it was thought a remarkably good showing. There are 140 Pekinese to be shown on Wednesday.

The two breeds differ as greatly as their lands are far apart in miles. The Pomeranian is jaunty, a powder puff as to coat and fluffy of tail. They are as varied in color as a flower garden—black, white, brown, chocolate, sable, blue, red and as one fancier says, "everything but pink, and we are breeding for that." The Pekinese is the miniature lion in coat, thick and silky and mostly red, biscuit or black. Both are friendly and companionable sorts, once owned never to be forgotten.

Mrs. Frank Smyth of Philadelphia is president of the American Pekinese Club, and among her dogs of fame are Champion Banner Prince Charming and Banner His Lordship. Other leading exhibitors and members of the committee were Miss Anna Sands, who owns some



MRS. F. SMYTH, President of the American Pomeranian Club.

Pomeranians Exhibited at the Waldorf-Astoria and their Owners.



Photo by Paul Thompson, N. Y.  
MISS GWENDOLYN BURDEN AND BLUE IMP.



Photo by Paul Thompson, N. Y.  
MARIAN VAN RENSSELAER KENNEDY WITH BUTTERCUP.

beautiful blues; Mrs. Hartley Williamson, Mrs. R. F. Mayhew, Miss Elsie G. Hyden, Miss F. K. McLane and Mrs. Frank T. Clarke.

The show of the Pekinese Club of America is its first venture and also the first ever held at the Plaza. Mrs. Benjamin Guinness is the president and she will act as judge in all the classes. Mrs. M. E. Harby is the secretary-treasurer, and naturally her husband has been doing the work of receiving entries. He is a lawyer and turned from dictating a brief to answer some questions about the show the other day.

"Take it from me," said he after having cheerfully vouchsafed the information desired, "that this is the last dog show



Photo by Paul Thompson, N. Y.  
MRS. GEORGE RUSSELL PEABODY WITH MANCHI.



Photo by Paul Thompson, N. Y.  
MRS. JAMES A. STILLMAN WITH DAWN SABLE PRINCE.



Photo by Paul Thompson, N. Y.  
EDITH STONE WITH SNOWBALL 3D AND SNOWBALL PRINCESS.



Photo by Paul Thompson, N. Y.  
MISS KATHRYNE STEELE WITH NICK LONGWORTH.

A NEW SHINY LEATHER.

Said to Be as Bright as the Patent and to Wear Better.

The past twenty-five or thirty years have seen wonderful changes not only in the matter of working leather, says the Shoe Retailer, but also in its tanning and finish. Especially is this true in the case of patent leather.

Up to about ten years ago there was nothing in the market but the old fashioned bark tan, with a heavy finish on the flesh side, which was very stiff, hard, uncomfortable, and very uncertain in its wearing qualities. With the introduction of chrome tanned patent leather, which was so much softer than the bark tanned, the latter was driven almost entirely out of the market. From Germany, where we got our supplies of patent calf the exports have almost entirely ceased, the chrome tanned leather wholly taking its place.

Because of the continued calls from the shoe manufacturer and retailer for leather that would stand up in the shoe and look smooth, there has been the tendency to get away from the original soft, mellow tannage which has made chrome tanned patent leather so popular, and to-day, in many instances, the chrome tanned leather is almost as firm as the old bark tanned leather, although the wearing qualities are very much better.

With all the great advantages that the chrome tannage of patent leather has over the bark tanned leather, there are still many very serious defects in it. The first is the difficulty in getting it through the shoe factories without checking and cracking.

The next is the trouble the retailer has had in unsatisfactory wear from checking and the finish peeling and powdering in the creases of the shoes. In winter time it almost without exception checks badly, which causes a great deal of dissatisfaction with the wearer, who has made many unreasonable demands on the retailer for new shoes when there was absolutely no good ground for it.

It is impossible to get a varnished leather that will be flexible under all conditions, because the baking necessary to dry it hardens it, and when the leather is stretched above a certain point the finish is bound to crack, and when the cold strikes it it is sure to check and crack badly. The best patent leather that has ever been made will give more or less trouble, at times, going through the factory, and still more trouble in wearing.

Another great difficulty met with in the

manufacture of patent leather is the fact that it is impossible to get an absolutely uniform finish. The hides or skins vary a great deal in fineness of the grain, a fine grained skin requiring very much less material than the coarse grain. The workmen not knowing about this, or in many cases not caring, often put a great deal more on the fine grained skins than is necessary, and frequently much less on the coarse grained ones than they require, and in varnishing they do the same thing.

It is now said that a new process has been invented which will overcome these objections by getting rid of the three processes, varnishing, baking and sunning. Leather made this way is said to be as soft as kid, as bright as patent leather, and will hold its finish much longer and better.

The grain is flexible and strong because it has not been baked, and it has all of the natural strength and fibre that any unfinished leather would have, consequently adding a great deal to its wearing qualities. In the severest tests that it could possibly be put to in shoe factories, in wearing, and in cold tests, it has in every instance come out without a check or a crack under any conditions.

This leather can be made in black and in colors as well. The advantage in making colored shoes of this finish is that it requires no special care in going through the factory, for if they are soiled in making they can be cleaned as easily as patent leather, the shoes do not change color in wearing, and it is more easily cleaned than the ordinary colored leather.

While this is a bright leather—as bright as patent leather—it cannot be called "patent" because it is not varnished. The finish is so thin that it leaves a beautiful grain effect, much handsomer than can be obtained in any varnished leather.

New French Toys.

From the Gentlewoman.

Not long ago M. Lepine, the prefect of police, organized an annual toy competition, and the toy that wins a prize becomes, so they say, half marked and a certain to attract attention.

The chief feature this season is called "Le Circuit de l'Est," thus named after the great aeroplane race through France a few months ago. It is very cleverly contrived and shows a biplane and a monoplane revolving at a great speed around a church steeple.

Another contrivance, half toy, half race game, consists of four aeroplanes turning round a mast and rising one above the other. It contains the genuine sporting element. I noticed too that wild beasts are plentiful, especially bears and tigers, although monkeys also are very well represented. Altogether toys have been very ingeniously treated this year.



PEKINESE NOWATA MIN-CHI.

I ever manage. The trouble is my law business interferes too much with the dog pleasures. And I can't afford to give up the law.

One of the stars of the show will be Nowata Min-Chi, imported by A. But-Donald and now the property of Mrs. M. E. Harby.

"I would hate to tell you what it cost

me," said Mr. Harby with a sigh as he resumed dictation to his stenographer. The club has eighty-three members. The women bring their own dogs into the ring and put them through their paces before the judge. In this and all other respects the hotel shows do not differ from the big ones of the summer and winter circuits. All who come are welcome and fanciers of every degree watch the judging.

Any visitor who feels he might be taken for an outsider among the amateur and professional fanciers has only to be dis-

posed of at least in accord. Yet there is nothing new under the sun and that the pronouncement has the merit of age is revealed by this quotation from Tom Hood, who wrote it years ago. The lines are from an "Ode to Mr. Graham, the Aeronaut."

"That little world of Mog's!"  
Are those the London Docks?—that channel,  
The mighty Thames?—a proper kennel  
For that small Isle of Dogs!

DO BABIES CRY LESS NOW?

This Man Is Told So, and Has the Corroborative Testimony of His Senses.

"Ring without knowledge of my own in that line," said a bachelor young man. "I can't speak by experience; but they tell me that the reason we see now fewer of these comic pictures of harassed fathers walking the floor at midnight or at 1, 2 or 3 A. M. trying to quiet crying infants is because infants don't cry now as they once did."

"They tell me that a new era has come in the care of infants and I am ready to believe this from what I see of babies in public places. Surely babies don't cry so much as they did in the streets and in street cars and on excursion boats and so on."

"There is more peace in the world, and more quiet, and I am told that the reason for this is found in the more enlightened care and attention that infants now receive. They tell me that in recent years there has been a great advance in this respect: that the infants not only of the rich but of the so-called poor as well are now far more intelligently looked after; that all small children now get more air than they once did, and more suitable and more nourishing food, with the result that the babies are better, stronger and healthier, livelier and jollier, less restless and uncomfortable and less disposed to cry. All these happy things being due to modern science and hygiene."

"And if all these things are true, as I believe they are, the comic artist has lost a subject but the world has gained a blessing."

Spare the Cat and Spoil the Rat.

From the Lady's Pictorial.

In Paris they are waxing indignant over the proposed taxation of Minette, the ubiquitous cat. It is only suggested that the tax should be two francs a year, nevertheless a fierce protest is being raised against the proposal and the comic cartoonists are very busy making capital of the idea. One used to second the suggestion that a levy should be imposed in England on the all too prevalent and inharmonious puss, but in view of the recent revelations concerning rats one cannot help thinking that the cat is by far the lesser of the two evils.